



# BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

March 2024

Number 28

## Editorial From Chris Duffin, BSHP President

**There are changes afoot in the BSHP!** Membership of the BSHP Committee is generally for a period of three years. In the natural way of things, therefore, new Committee members are occasionally needed and posts of responsibility need to be filled.

I'm sure you will all be aware of the tremendous amount of work that **Roy Allcorn** has done for the Society, most recently in the role of Honorary Secretary. Roy served as Vice President, and then President notably during BSHP's 50th anniversary year, as well as leading the Society through its transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) during his presidential term. He has helped guide the Society through some awkward times, been a fount of knowledge about BSHP affairs and unstinting in his support to all who have sought advice and assistance. In particular, he has masterminded the smooth running of the Society for many years, bringing quiet wisdom, empathy and efficiency to his administrative duties. We are fortunate to have benefited from his gifts and qualities for so long, but it is now time for him step away from his role. The Society owes him an enormous debt of gratitude for past service and we wish him well as he 'retires' from this part of his commitment. Our Honorary Treasurer, **Selina Hurley**, will also step down from her post at the AGM. She, too, has been an invaluable source of support to the Committee and has negotiated her way seemingly effortlessly through the complexities of setting up digital banking in a bid to drag the Society into the 21st century. We will miss them both.



This means that there are **vacant roles** to be filled – new Committee members, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. You will find a proposal form with this edition of the BSHP Gazette and hope you might consider serving the Society yourself or nominating another (with their consent, of course) for one of the vacant posts.

Also at the AGM, the Presidency will pass from myself to **Mark Nesbitt**; we wish him well for his term of office and look forward to what innovations and guidance that might bring.

## Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 54 No.1

With this mailing you are receiving the **March 2024** issue (Volume 54, No. 1) of *Pharmaceutical Historian*, our flagship international journal. This number includes articles on Carl Weber (1835-1897) an Austrian Pharmacist working in Mexico, Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe (1546-1601) and an exploration of the importance of mortars in Early Modern Medicine. This, and other issues available at [www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp)

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## Annual Conference 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

It's just **£45** per person for a full day of pharmacy history talks and posters, buffet lunch, our AGM and ample time to explore the location at the award-winning **Thackray Museum, Leeds**. You can also join us for optional dinners in central Leeds on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 March. **Booking deadline Friday 8 March**

More info: <https://bshpconf24.eventbrite.co.uk>

Any questions? Contact Briony Hudson [conference@bshp.org](mailto:conference@bshp.org)

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## BSHP Annual General Meeting 2024

Members are advised that our AGM will be held on **Saturday 23 March at 4pm** as part of our 2024 annual conference. Please send any apologies for absence to [honsec@bshp.org](mailto:honsec@bshp.org).

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## BSHP Online Lecture Series - Global Histories of Pharmacy

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 6.30 pm**

***Brebajes, Yervas, and Pharmacopeias: Healing Materiality and the Imagination of the Early Modern Caribbean***

**Professor Pablo Gomez, University of Wisconsin-Madison**



Professor Gomez's work focuses on the history of knowledge, science, and the history of health and corporeality in Latin America, the Caribbean, the African diaspora and, more generally, the Iberian and Black Atlantic Worlds. His books include multiple-award winning *The Experiential Caribbean: Creating Knowledge and Healing in the Early Modern Atlantic*. His latest publication is an edited volume, *The Gray Zones of Medicine*, which examines the role of unlicensed health practitioners in the shaping of Latin American history.

[www.history.wisc.edu/people/gomez-pablo-f/](http://www.history.wisc.edu/people/gomez-pablo-f/)

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 6.30 pm**

***History of medicinal plants in the Qur'an and other religious texts***

**Dr Shahina A. Ghazanfar, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**

This talk will focus on plants mentioned in the Qur'an and other religious texts such as the Bible and Hadith that have medicinal value and have been used since ancient times to cure medical and other health conditions. It will also cover the cultural beliefs that people have about these plants in their curative powers.

[www.plantsofthemiddleeast.org](http://www.plantsofthemiddleeast.org)



**Booking our events at [www.bshp.org/events/](http://www.bshp.org/events/)**

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## Peter Homan Small Grant Scheme



Third call closes on 31st May 2024

Are you looking for funding to support pharmacy history research? Would you like to organise a pharmacy history event? Do you want to create or update pharmacy history displays?

[www.bsph.org/Awards/PeterHoman](http://www.bsph.org/Awards/PeterHoman)

The scheme is open to all, so please share with contacts, colleagues or other networks. In memory of Peter Homan (1938-2021), past BSHP President, pharmacist and pharmacy historian (pictured).

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## Call for Committee Nominations

Fancy joining us as on the committee? We have spaces for committee members an Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. Any interested parties can view the requirements of these roles on at [www.bsph.org/aboutus/officers.asp](http://www.bsph.org/aboutus/officers.asp) and nominate candidates by email.

Please send any questions and nominations to [info@bsph.org](mailto:info@bsph.org)

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## The Leslie Matthews Medal

Call closes on 30 April 2024

The medal is the Society's highest honour, created in memory of Mr Leslie G Matthews (1897-1997), a barrister, pharmacist and scholar. It is awarded for original and scholarly work in the history of British pharmacy. Evaluation is based on competence of research, skill in interpretation and ability in presentation. We interpret pharmacy broadly, to cover all the aspects of materia medica and pharmacy policy and practice that fall in the scope of the Society. Recipients do not need to be members of the Society. Self-nominations are not accepted. Previous winners are listed at the Society's website, including Briony Hudson (pictured) who won the 2018 medal.

Nominations, with a maximum 400-word statement of the work and achievements of the candidate in the history of pharmacy, may be made to the President in confidence by members of the BSHP. Please email these to [president@bsph.org](mailto:president@bsph.org) More info: [www.bsph.org/awards/LeslieMatthewsMedal.asp](http://www.bsph.org/awards/LeslieMatthewsMedal.asp)



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## Society of Apothecaries - Faculty Events

**A Spoonful of Sugar: Polio, Public Health and Protection** by Natasha McEnroe. 4th June 2024 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. More information and booking details here:

[www.apothecaries.org/events/category/faculty-hp-cc-events/](http://www.apothecaries.org/events/category/faculty-hp-cc-events/)

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## Herbal History Research Network

The HHRN will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a full-day symposium in London, Wednesday, 16 October 2024. Please watch the network's website for further details: [www.herbalhistory.org](http://www.herbalhistory.org)

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## New Members

We welcome the following into membership: **William Kelly (Australia)**

### Contacts

**Facebook:** British Society for the History of Pharmacy

**Twitter:** @PharmHist

**BSHP Secretariat:** [info@bshp.org](mailto:info@bshp.org)

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